

From: John McCormick [mccormicks3360@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 6:02 PM

To: Friis, John

Subject: PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY-HB6493

Dear Rep.Fleishman and Sen. Gaffney and the members of the Joint Committee on Education:

I am writing to urge you to please vote in favor of Bill HB6493 so that it can be moved forward. In doing so it would enable the majority of all three towns the comprise Regional District 11 to truly have a deciding say in the future of Parish Hill High School. As it is now, only a small majority have been able to prevent positive movement forward for our three towns due to their steadfast desire of keeping Parish Hill no matter what the cost. Our towns have been forced to pay the highest tuition costs per student than any other school in CT, while on the same hand, we have had to deal with accreditation problems, low scores, and higher taxes, all to keep a high school somewhat afloat that the majority of all three towns no longer wants. We have lost families who, once they have investigated Reginal District 11, have decided they DID NOT want to have their children educated there. More and more families, who live in one of the three towns, have opted to tuition out their children elsewhere in order to obtain their educational needs, such as vo-ag or vo-tech schools, or to pay out of their own pockets to obtain a private education through parochial schools, private schools, and home schooling.

I have been a Hampton resident for more than 25 years but it is getting more and more discouraging when the voice of the majority of the three towns seems to be denied over and over again and our increasing taxes are only able to keep a failing school going while the towns roads fall by the way side and other programs that would benefit all residents are denied due to lack of funds.

Please vote yes to move this bill forward so that towns like ours have the ability to move forward with the wishes of the majority of its taxpayers. We will also then be able to move forward in making the best future for our middle school students, who at the present time, share the same building as our high school students at Parish Hill High School.

Thank you for your time and for listening and taking into consideration this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa McCormick

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